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VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS

(Continued From First Page.)

for them—better, in fact, than any other part of the United States.

"Perhaps there is something in it. No one who knows the South can deny the charm of the country south of Mason and Dixon's line."

"The only trouble with such an appeal is that people do not as a rule pick their habitations through sentiment. Thousands of Northerners have moved into the South in the past ten years because they thought they could live better and do better there than they could in the North. During the same period other thousands of Southerners have moved North for the same reason."

Yes, the "back home movement" is assuming such proportions that it is evidently frightening some Western and Northern people. There was a time when the Southerner, the Virginian, thought he could see better things beyond the borders of the dear old land, but that time has passed, and we folks who have remained at the old stand know it better than do the wanderers themselves, and our strongest argument to them is based on the fact that thousands of Northerners have moved into the South during the past ten years because they thought they could live better and do better there than they could in the North, and because their experience of a decade has proven that such was and is the fact. The "back home movement" is growing and having a good effect.

Good Roads Snowball.
When a snowball starts at the top of a hill or a mountain it gathers momentum as well as size as it proceeds. This good roads movement in Virginia was only a very small snowball when it started down the mountain side, but as it rushes along it grows in size and in force. Over in Mecklenburg county, for instance, the little snowball was first made there in the Clarksville district, but as it rolled along the Chase City district gave it a push and then came in the South Hill district and now all of the other districts are rolling behind the ball and rolling it along to the end that within the next twelve months old Mecklenburg county is going to have good roads in all directions, even in Boynton district.

The ball is not stopping there, for two adjoining counties, Brunswick and Lunenburg, are catching on to the snowball and meetings are being held in those two counties to put bond issues behind the ball and have good roads to meet Mecklenburg's modern highways at the county lines. Brunswick has the ball right in hand, and is rolling it some. Lunenburg is a little bit slower, but it is coming up to the place where the ball hits the county line and no doubt will keep it rolling.

Lessons From a Far Country.
We do not have any volcanic eruptions in Virginia, but from a country that does we may catch a lesson worth while.

Far-away New Zealand is using its convicts in replanting sections of the island denuded of forest by volcanic eruptions and other disturbances. Light offenders with first sentences are the prisoners assigned to work in the sections where forests are being planted under government supervision. Henry D. Baker, the American vice-consul at Sydney, Australia, recently visited New Zealand, and in his description of the means of working convicts to the State Department.

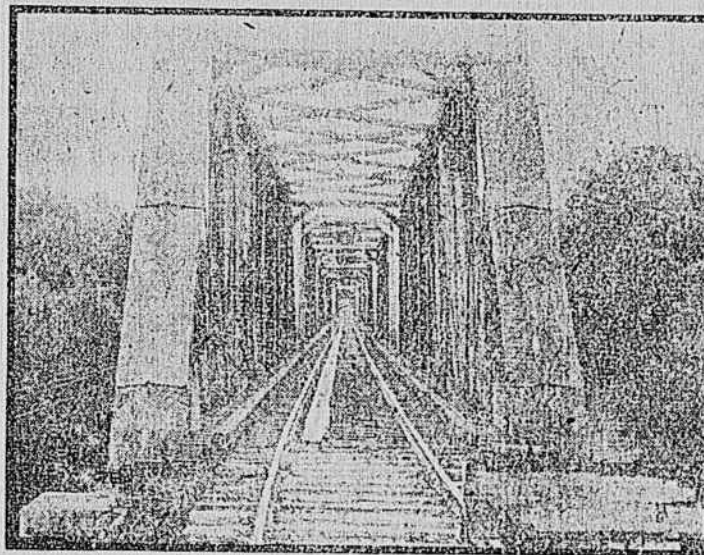
He watched the work of eighty prisoners assigned duty in the famous Rotura Springs district. Tree planting is being carried on there in a unique stone land within the shadow of Mount Tararua, where the fertile district has been made a desert through the action of the volcano.

No native New Zealand trees would grow in the extensive areas of purple land which stood as a repulsive blot on the beautiful island. Horticulturists discovered that imported larch would flourish in the purple stone. Great quantities of these trees have been imported, and are planted in rows four feet apart, later to be thinned so they will stand from eight feet to sixteen feet according to their growth.

In a single season one squad of twenty-eight prisoners planted 2,679, 525 trees, and the entire number of trees planted by convicts last season was in excess of 3,500,000.

New Zealand scientists estimate that within fifty years the island will have exhausted its present timber supply. Consequently extensive reforestation is imperative, and no effort will be spared to meet the demands of settlers for lumber and posts.

Prisoners engaged in the work of reforestation are also learning to fight fires, and have been the means of saving much valuable timber. The men are treated with much consideration; those who have not been accustomed to accomplish as much planting in a day as the men trained to heavy labor. It has been found that the men engaged in this wholesome work have improved both morally and physically, and almost without exception have had their sentences shortened greatly through good behavior.



BIG DOUBLE RAILROAD BRIDGE AT CLARKSVILLE, VA.

Colonel Henry Watterson says that a first-class hotel and a well-managed theatre will do more to make a village a town and a town a city than in to draw and hold the stranger within the gate—than, next after an attractive newspaper, all else combined.

Well, add first-class public schools and comfortable well-filled churches and some other smaller things, and the colonel will have it down about right.

Mayer Fitzgerald, of Boston, walks out as follows:
"Silk stocking pedigrees and family crests enjoy great monopolies in State Street that the mass of us long on brains, not pedigree, has no chance. And so the city does not forge ahead as it should."

The time was when Boston sneered at the South because, as alleged, similar conditions prevailed here. The al-

location was always false, and more so now than ever before. Business and brains will tell in Virginia every time, notwithstanding a high regard for pedigree when the same is properly cashed for.

At least thirty county fairs will be held in Virginia the coming fall. Maybe by next year there will be 100, one in every county.

The late frosts have hurt the early ripening somewhat, cherries, plums and the like, but Virginia's peach and apple crops are going to be something to gaze at this year.

The Virginia orchardists need not be frightened about reforestation with Canada. If Virginia can't give Canada two and the ro and beat her in the peach and apple raising business, then Virginia had better quit and stay out in Montreal or New York or Boston or London any day in the year than any fruit that grows on Canada soil.

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